Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Louis Allison, Tech Director
Cody Messersmith, Worship Music Director
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

July 05, 2026 9:45 AM

Mt. Zion UCC Summer Road Trip
July 05, 2026: Saguaro National Park

Seeing God in the beauty of nature as the US celebrates 250 years

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Sunday School is currently paused for the summer and will return in the fall. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE *God Will Take Care of You* arr. Berry

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 8:3-8)

L: Come, travelers on the road of faith.
C: We gather in God's presence.
L: When we look at the heavens, the work of God's fingers,
C: We marvel at the beauty of creation.
L: When we consider the earth and all that fills it,
C: We remember God's goodness and care.
L: From sunrise to sunset, God's glory surrounds us.
C: We come to worship the Creator of all things.
L: Come, let us worship.
C: Let us worship God.

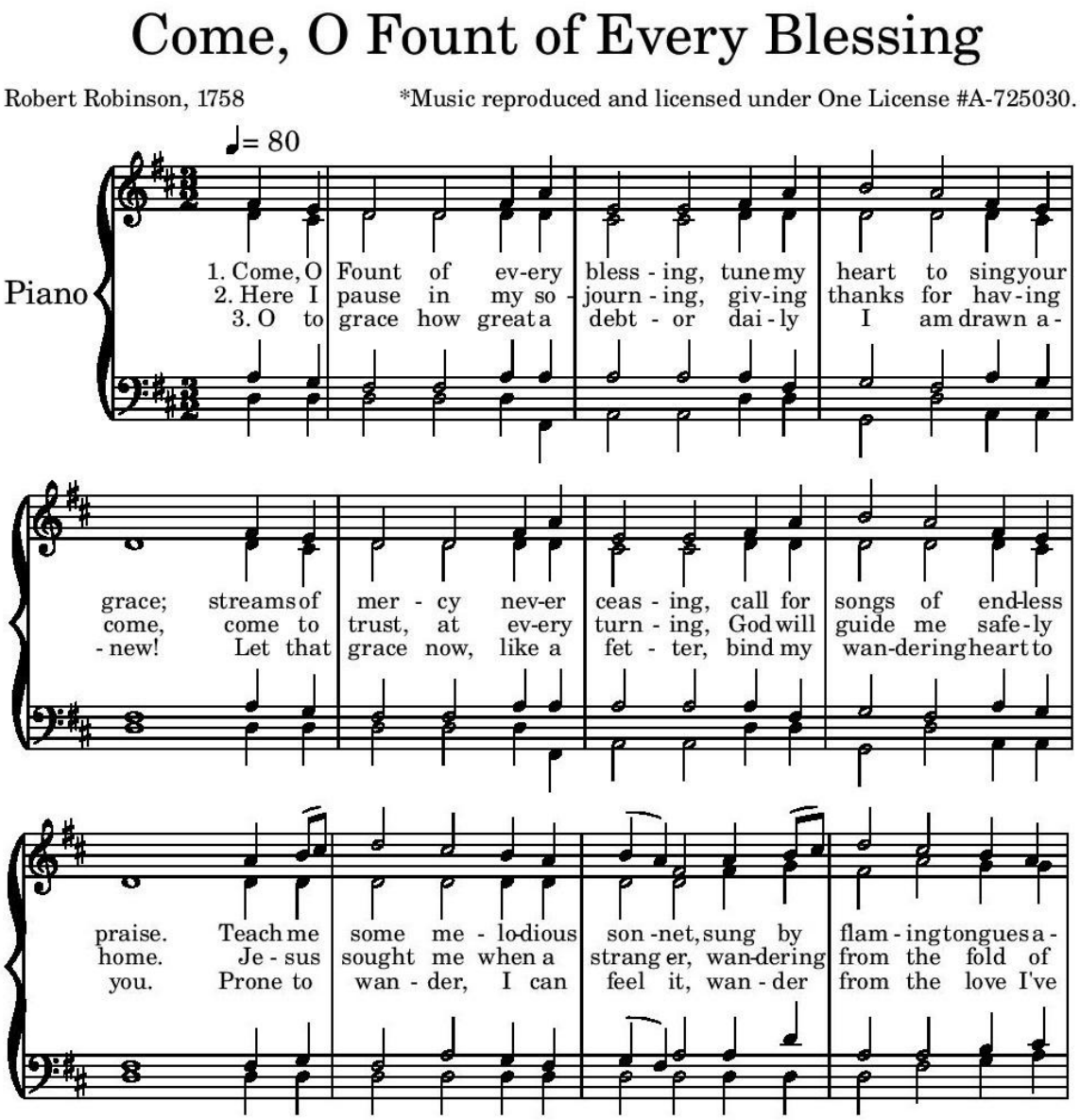
*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

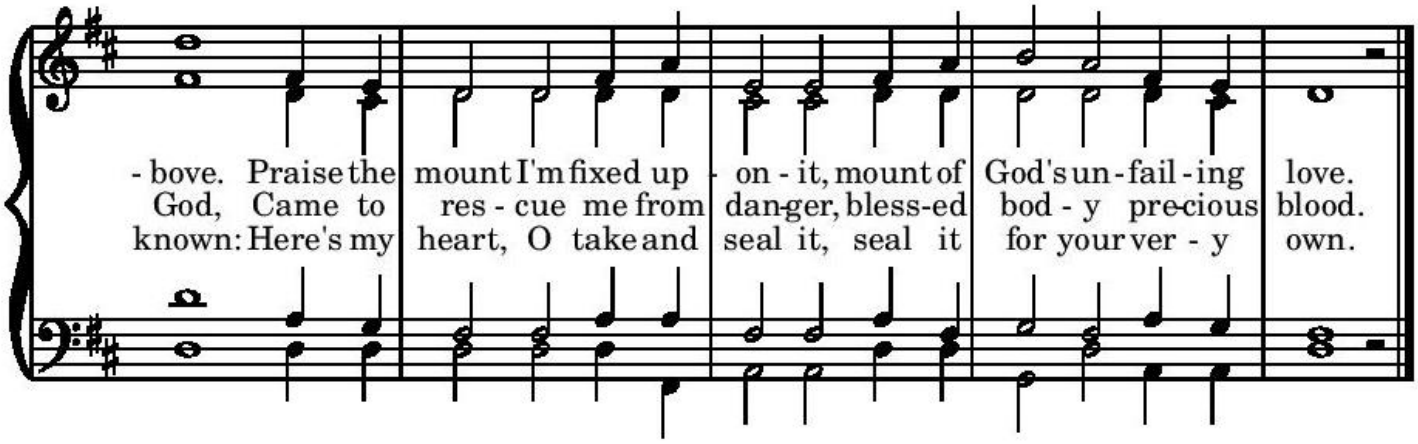
L: God of creation, today we give thanks for your presence in Saguaro National Park and for the surprising lessons found in the desert. As our nation pauses to celebrate Independence Day, remind us that our lives are rooted not in independence from you, but in joyful dependence upon you. Like the saguaro reaching toward the sky while depending on the rain you provide, teach us to trust your grace, receive your daily mercies, and rest in your faithful care. As we gather on this holy ground, draw us into your presence, shape us by your Spirit, and deepen our dependence on your unfailing love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN NCH NO. 459** (black hymnal, see below and next page)

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**[1]

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: In these summer days we rejoice in the gifts of your creation—the beauty of the earth, the playfulness of animals, and the gift of our being—fragile as it may be. Though God's creation dazzles us with all of its wonder, we have not always done our part to be good stewards of it. Together, let us confess before God the times we have missed the mark when it comes to our own lives as well as caring for creation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: O God,

C: God, we come to you today acknowledging that things are broken. Creation is broken. Relationships are broken. We are broken. But in the same breath we know that you make all things new. Today we pray that your presence would be felt in our brokenness. We ask that through your grace all of creation would once again be made whole. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Hear the great news today; through his life, death, and resurrection—Christ heals what we have broken. Just as quickly as our sins were offered up, they have been forgiven. This day you are forgiven, we all are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*ACT OF PRAISE NCH NO. 4 (black hymnal, v. 3, see next page)

Joyful Joyful We Adore You

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You Verse 3

Henry van Dyke, 1907

Ludwig von Beethoven, 1824

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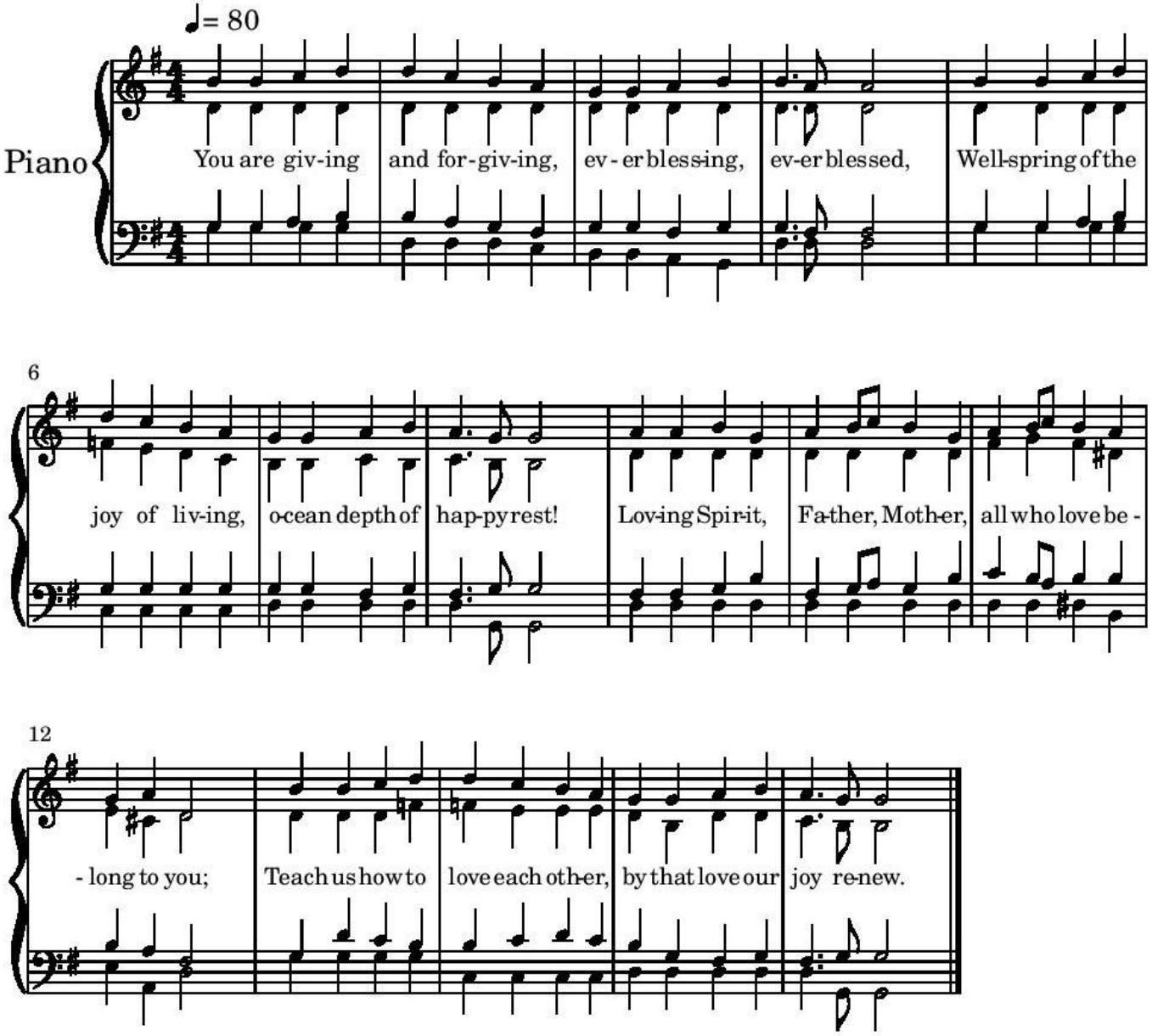


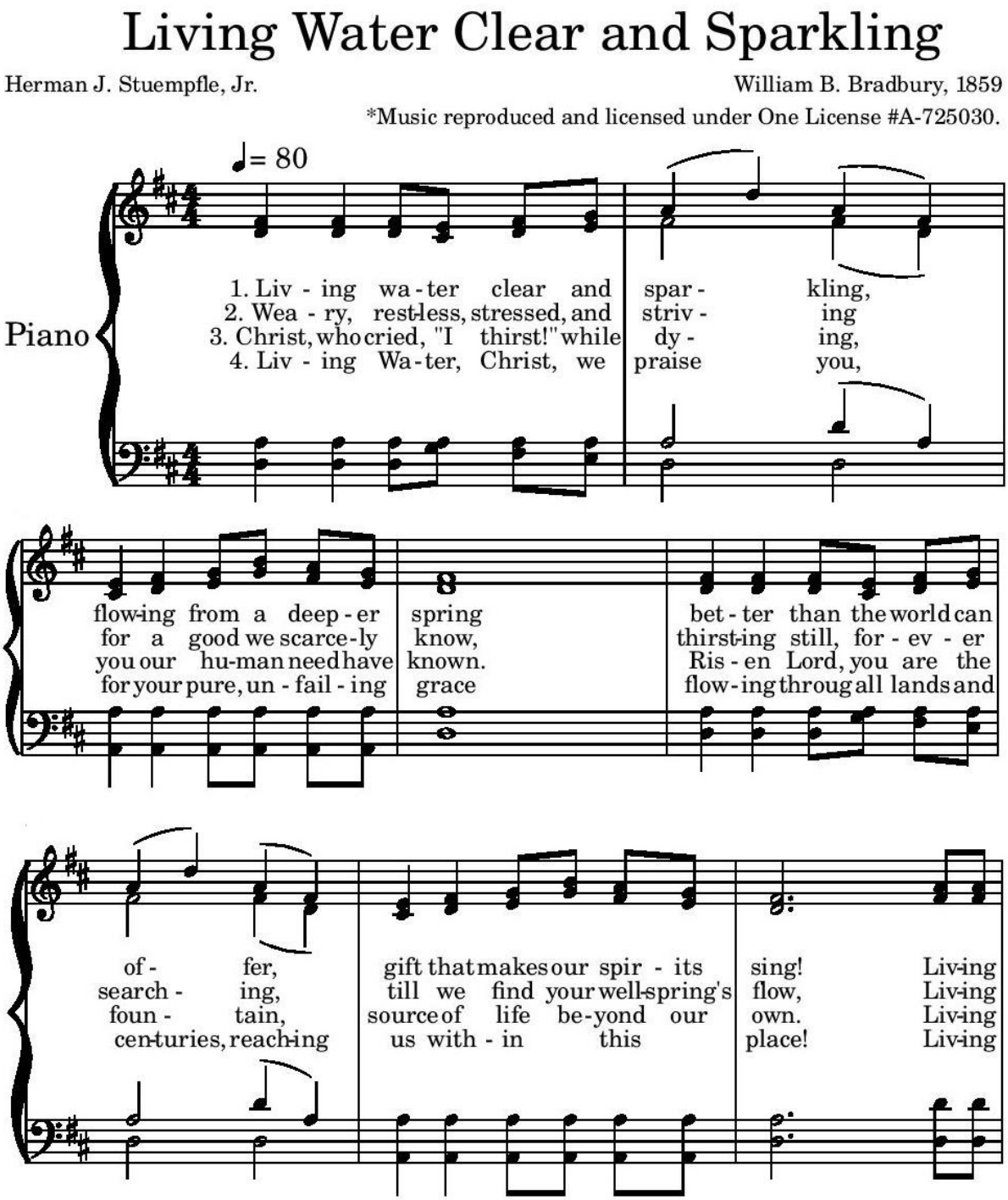
*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

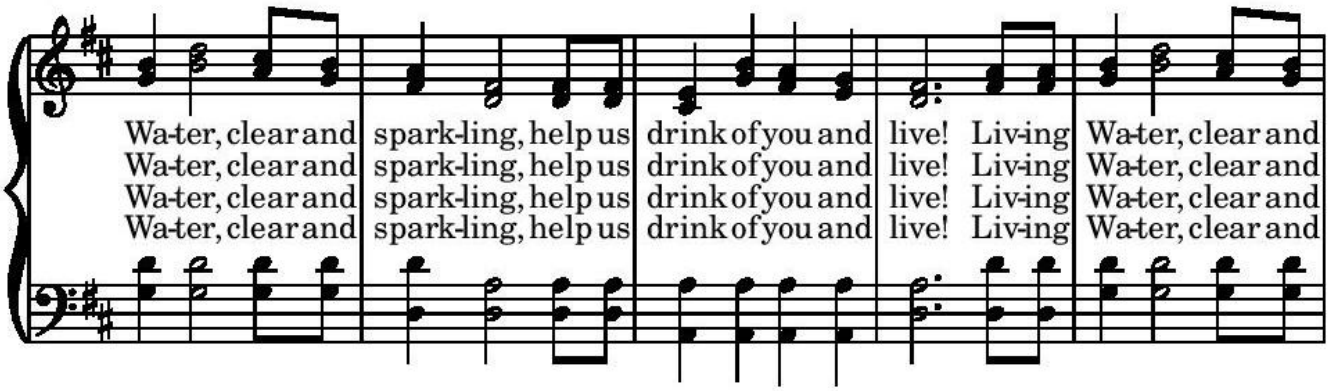
SCRIPTURE READING *Ecclesiastes 4* (NRSVUE)

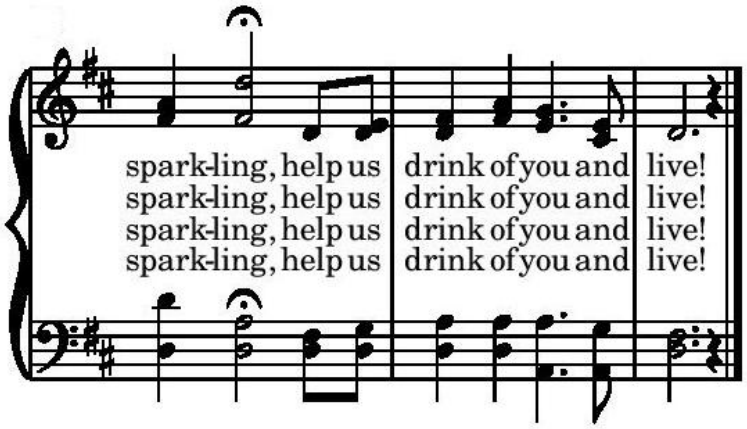
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (see below & next page) *Living Water Clear and Sparkling*



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.





PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TIME FOR SHARING[1]

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY *Holding Hands* by Combs

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God,

C: we know that you aren't in need of anything we have to offer. However you desire for us to serve you in every aspect of our life. We pray that this offering was not a meaningless ritual but a true act of worship. Bless these tithes and offerings and guide us as we seek to use them to serve you in all of creation. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC (sung by Nova Ramsey) *This Little Light of Mine* Traditional

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

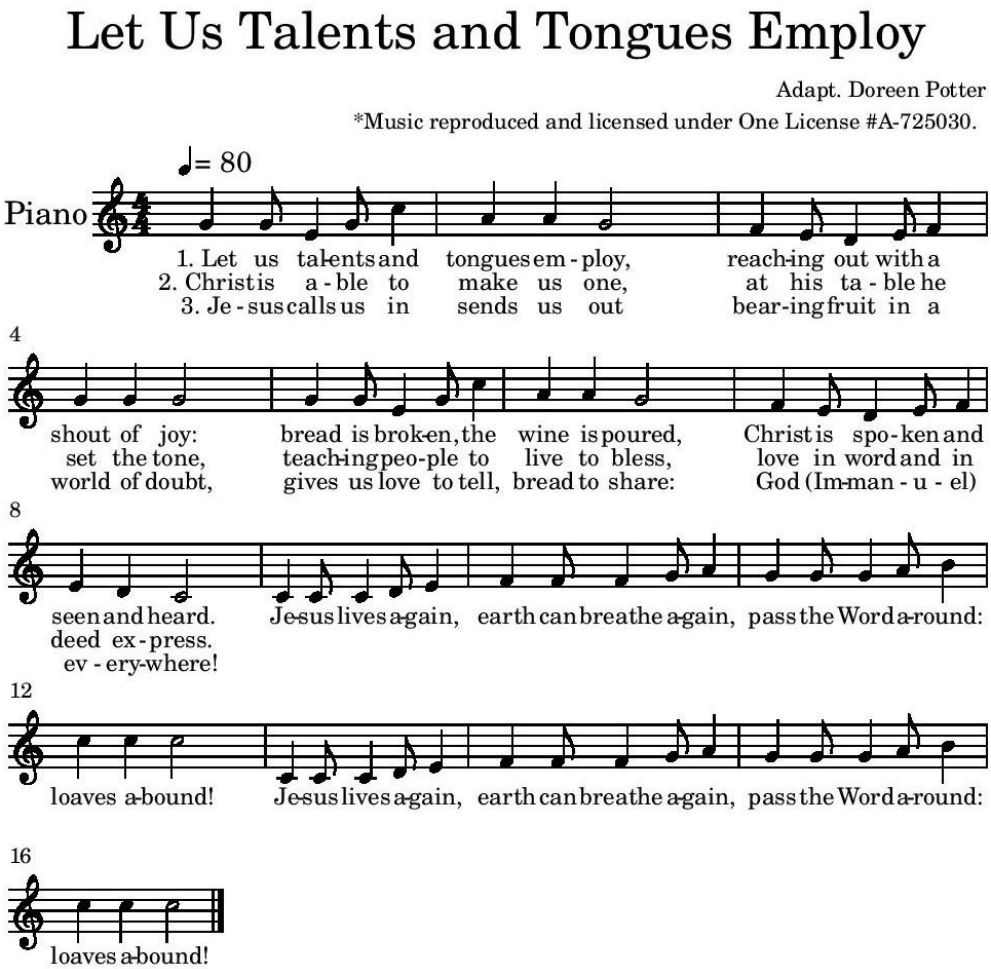
THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 347 NCH (black hymnal, see below)

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 330 NCH (black hymnal, see below)

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let Us Break Bread Together

John Johnson

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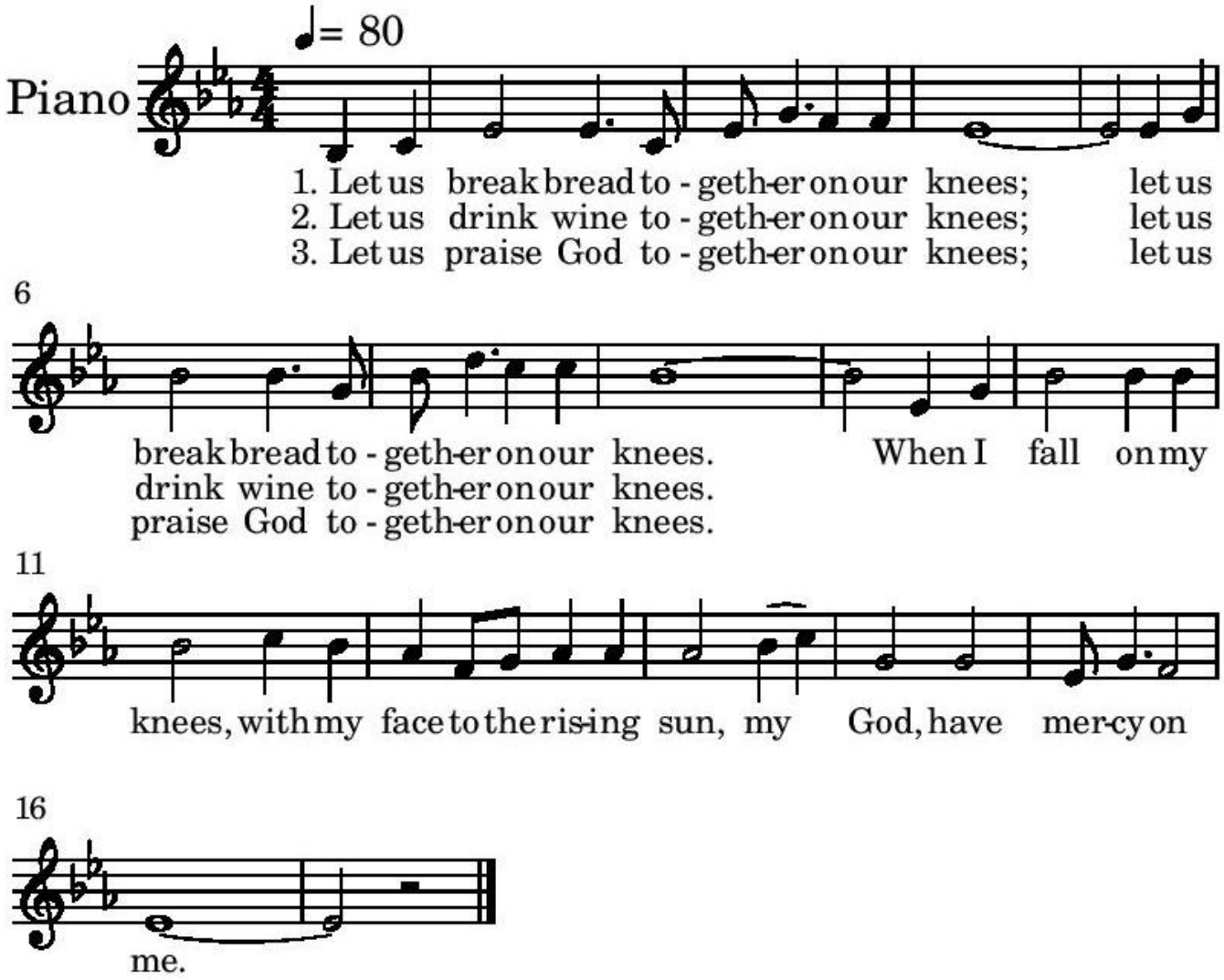


*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

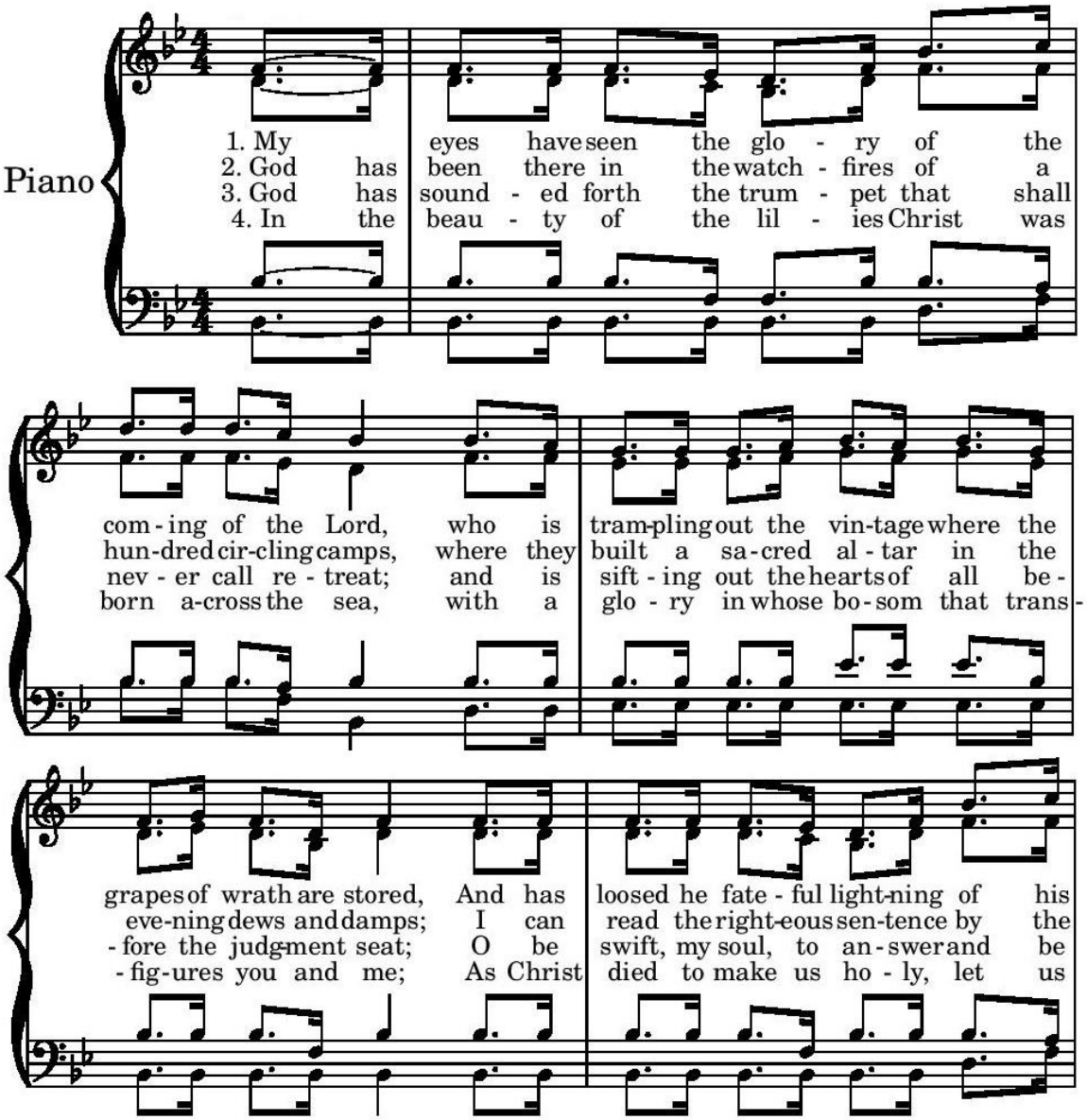
L: God of every journey,

C: We thank you for meeting us at this table. As you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing, strengthen us for the road ahead. May this meal remind us that wherever we go, your grace goes with us. Help us to recognize holy ground beneath our feet and your presence among your people. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

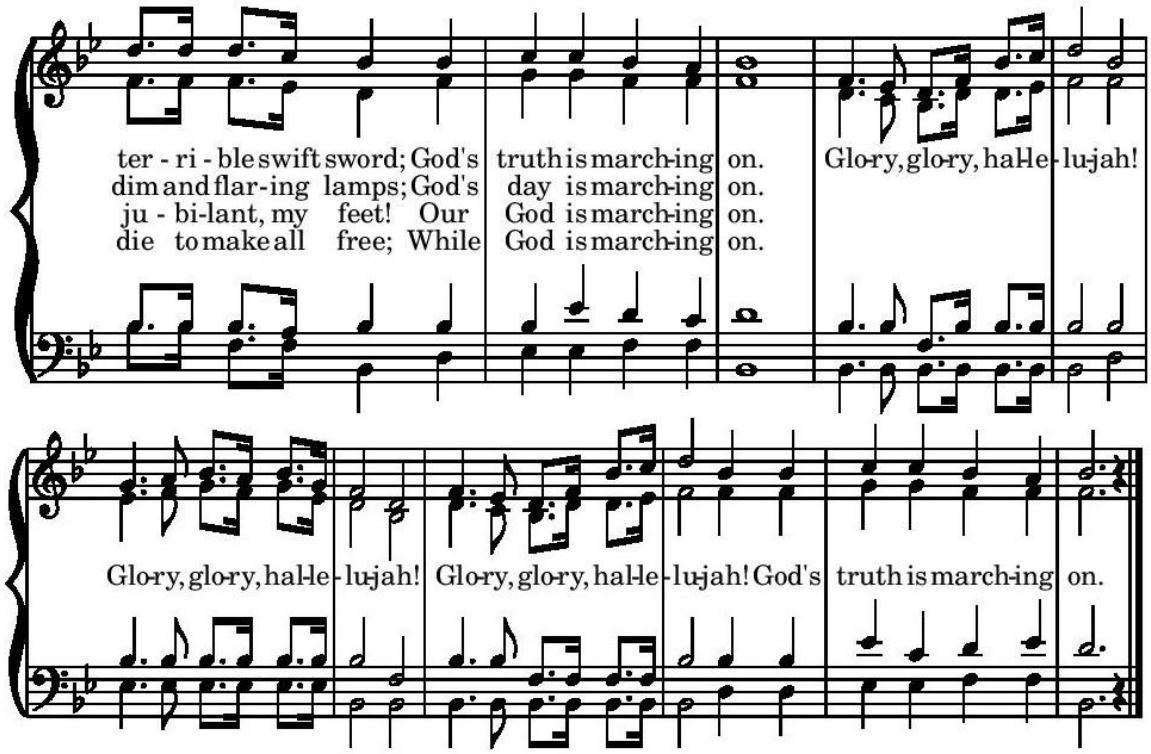
***CLOSING HYMN NCH NO. 610** (black hymnal, see below) *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Julia Ward Howe, 1861 *Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.



***BENEDICTION**

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.

C: Amen.

***SENDING**

P: Go forth relying on God and sharing God's grace with the world

C: Thanks be to God! We will!

POSTLUDE *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Berry

Service Participants

Welcome Team Members— Vanessa Bicher, Brenda Beyer, Jen & Mark Miller
Liturgist— Connie Wolfe
Tech Team— Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & John Schriver
Special Musician—Nova Ramsey

References

[1]The Time of Confession and the Offertory Liturgies are written by Drew Gray

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.